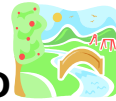




REDMOND PARK BOARD



Meeting Minutes October 6, 2005 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Chair Lori Snodgrass at 7:01 p.m.

Board members present: Chairperson Snodgrass; Co-chair: Kelsey; Board members: Margeson, Stewart, Ladd and Youth Advocates Duncanson and Thomas.

City staff present: Danny Hopkins, Parks Director; Tim Cox, Parks Planning Manager; Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

Welcome and introduction of new Youth Advocates for 2005-2006.

Emily Duncanson - senior at Redmond High School, President of Redmond High School's Environmental Club, enjoys the outdoors, would like to take an active role in shaping the community's Parks and Recreation amenities.

Nolan Thomas - Evergreen Jr. High School, recreation enthusiast.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion for approval of the September 1, 2005 Redmond Park Board minutes as presented:

Motion by: Kelsey to approve and adopt minutes

Second by: Margeson

Motion carried: 5 -0 unanimous

III. Items from the Audience

A. Northwest Tennis - Marceil Whitney - Tennis Outreach Programs

Ms. Whitney requested the Board's time at a future meeting to discuss potential support in partnering with the Tennis Outreach Programs in finding a suitable location to build a permanent indoor tennis facility/public community center in Redmond. Ms. Whitney has been

discussing this issue with King County for the past four years and is very interested in pursuing this issue further with the Park Board. Ms. Whitney has been employed by the City of Redmond Parks and Recreation Dept. for 32 years as a tennis instructor and runs the tennis program. During the summer, eight weeks, her program serves over 1,500 kids.

Hopkins and Whitney have had some dialogue regarding this issue; staff has looked at some possible sites. This subject will be put on the Board's agenda at a future meeting (within the next two months). Hopkins added that there could be a "bubble" facility, which has been preliminarily budgeted in the CIP.

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

A. Seattle Area Soaring Society (SASS) - Loren Steel

Mr. Steel, President of the SASS (stewards for 60 Acres South), read a letter which explained and gave reference to the organization's endeavor, with King County's Department of Parks and Recreation, to preserve 60 Acres South for passive recreational purposes.

King County plans to turn over 60 Acres South to the Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association, citing that soccer is the highest and best use of the Park. SASS has inquired about KC plans and has not received a response to date.

Mr. Steel is to inform the Board of this potential change in the use of 60 Acres South, asking for Board insight and advice and ask the Board for their opinion on how to proceed, potentially directed to the Director of Parks at King County.

If King County does allow full use of the fields for soccer only, all current passive use users will be displaced. SASS believes the best use for the site is to remain available for diversified use groups. Also, if this expanded use for soccer was allowed, the traffic safety, and parking, aspect along 116th and 154th Place NE. would become more congested and dangerous than it is currently.

Mr. Steel asked the Board to investigate all issues mentioned above, form an opinion and relay that opinion onto King County.

Hopkins noted that he had spoken to Mr. Steel and that Sixty Acres South is, in fact, in the City's limits. He added that there is a City permit process that would need to be followed for future development of the site. The City had heard that there had been conversation

between the Lake Washington Youth Soccer Assn. and the landowner of the corner of Willows Road and 124th and also talking with Lake Washington Voc-Tech to perhaps moving their Ag. Program to Mueller Farm. Hopkins has relayed his concerns to the King County's project manager, Mr. Brown.

Stewart inquired about the "special" wind/thermals in the valley, hard to replicate.

Sherman Knight - SASS (Handout)

Mr. Knight handed out copies of a packet which included a letter sent to Kevin Brown and Pam Bissonette, King County Parks. Mr. Knight noted that the SASS is not asking for any type of amenities (parking, parking bollards, fences, gates, building, only an empty field) for the site.

Mr. Knight then responded to Stewart's inquiry regarding the weather conditions and thermos. 60 Acres South has the perfect thermo balance. Three types of lifts:

- Prevailing winds lift - Valley run north and south causes ideal flight situation.
- Slope lift - Slope on east of 60 Acres, air hits slope and rises.
- Wave lift - winds from s/w and n/w, over hill on opposite side of valley, moving air has mass and eddies down, air bounces.

SASS began in 1970. In the 70's and 80's the club had spent its own money to maintain the site, however, King County has stepped in to do some maintenance.

This site is the only area in the King County where sail planes are a designated use by the County. King County has requested the Club look at a couple of other sites, however, these sites did not offer the same micro-climates and did not work for sail planes.

Doug Brusig, Seattle resident, SASS

Club rule that no flights are allowed over soccer fields for safety reasons. Other groups utilizing the field -rocketry groups, greyhound dog runs, boy scouts, free flight, kite flying, family oriented recreation - would have to relocate in the event that the Soccer Association were allowed both fields for use. If the site were relocated to a further location, he would not continue to drive out to an outer area.

Jim Laurel and Connor Laurel - SASS

Mr. Laurel strongly disagrees with the County's intent to turn 60 Acres South into a soccer facility. He feels the County is vastly under

estimates the use this field receives and the site is the ideal example of what a community park should be. There are 400+ soccer facilities already available in King County. Mr. Laurel asked that 60 Acres South remain, as it has, to serve the community for the last 30 years.

Noel Wade - SASS

Mr. Wade added that this is a multi-use site, many people utilize it from the immediate surrounding neighborhoods. Any turnover to one user group would exclude all other users. Multi-use would enable a diverse group of user activities and be most beneficial to the community.

Potential land swaps have been mentioned, some of the land offered comes with restrictions and use restrictions that may prohibit recreational use for the passive recreational uses now offered at 60 Acres South. Incompatibility may become an issue.

Hopkins noted that there has been dialogue with the County and he has brought this issue before Mayor Ives. Staff will do some background work and discuss this issue at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Steel added that there had been a permit application submitted to the City of Redmond from the Soccer Association to develop 60 Acres South. He indicated that King County did a very informal user group count - 11 user groups with an average membership of 168 members per group, did not include all visitors not part of any organization.

Snodgrass asked staff to put this subject on a future Park Board agenda.

B. Bob Yoder, Education Hill, Redmond resident (Map/Handout)

Mr. Yoder addressed the Board regarding the riparian habitat. Mr. Yoder was asking the Park Board for their comments and expertise on the subject of riparian habitat. He noted that riparian habitat helps identify where streams and important species are located. Mr. Yoder also noted that more stream classifications had been added to City mapping. Mr. Yoder asked the Board to look at these classifications in relation to parks.

Mr. Yoder will be asking the high school's environmental club to participate by writing some of their personal observations (what is important to them).

Mr. Yoder referred to Mosaic Meadows, two acres to the east on NE 116th and 176th donated - wetlands and uplands. Mr. Yoder is appealing the five acre parcel's SEPA before the Hearing Examiner,

due to the danger and difficulty of the inhabitants, of the two of the 13 lots on the 2.5 remaining acres.

Snodgrass responded that the five acres application may have been withdrawn due to the expense on site. Hopkins added that this might be a modification only. Mr. Yoder will check with Planning staff.

C. Downtown Plan

In anticipation of Park Board analysis of Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses, Threats (SWOT) analysis for the downtown neighborhood Cox noted that, Gary Lee, Planner, Planning and Community Development will be joining the Board next month discuss the Downtown neighborhood.

Martin Snodgrass, Planning Commission member (handout)

Mr. Snodgrass reported that the Planning Commission (PC) is currently going through the downtown area. Comp Plan amendments, visions, goals and general outline have been completed. Subject discussed are; the Anderson Park area and East Hill area (Perrigo area); attempting to focus on more mixed use, residential, some modifications for lower density (20-25 units per acre), more residential feel through guidelines, away from residential more toward parks. Developments are required to have 20% open space, minimum of 100 square feet, per unit. Staff has proposed an "in lieu of" fee for downtown open space, proposing that a fee can be paid for balconies for each not constructed in the parkland purchase equivalent to 50% of the impact fee paid into a park fund. His concern is whether the limitation use for land purchase and improvements is agreeable to the Board. No significant changes will be made to open space requirements. Regulations for some of downtown streets that are currently designated "retail street front" (residential above) will be eliminated, encouraging a more residential feel downtown (Green Street concept). Downtown regulation information is online. To make the downtown area viable, there must be central gathering places; there also must be an active retail core and place for neighbors to go - coffee shops, neighborhood retail, pocket parks, pedestrian friendly crossings, and more comfortable places.

Hopkins added that at a staff's perspective the open space requirement, financially makes a lot of sense; as staff is looking at downtown and revitalizing some existing parks and other areas.

There is also a second issue; cutting down common open space by paying in lieu fees - current requirement is 100 sq. ft. of common open space per unit - paying in lieu fees would cut open space to 50 square feet per unit. In lieu fees would be paid into Park CIP funds for future acquisition and development of open space/gathering places. Cox noted that staff has reviewed this issue and believes it could contribute to the philosophy of accumulation of public open space to accommodate increased population and density.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sammamish Valley SWOT Analysis (Conclusion)

Cox noted that background information had previously been given to the Board for their review and comments, as well as a brief analysis of the strengths and opportunities. The Sammamish Valley Neighborhood has only one City park site, the future Sammamish Valley Community Park (formerly Benaroya property).

Trail opportunities identified on the map (handout) - 124th Street, trail adjacent to 124th Street; 116th Street connector trail (e/w) from Willows Road to Juel Park; through improvements to the Sammamish River Trail and potential trail development of the BNSF line and potential opportunity to obtain easements along the trail by developers.

Issues that are important - safety, traffic and careful use of resources - 60 Acres North and South. Cooperating with King County on the widening and more efficient use and safety of the Sammamish River Trail per ASHTO Standards. Potential of the purchase of the Burlington Northern Right-of-Way creating a parallel trail to the river trail - adjacent to Willows Road along the tracks (long term Rails to Trails opportunity).

Snodgrass - Parks, Planning and Opportunities - should consider potential development of an Agri-oriented or themed park site. Opportunities to protect, enhance and promote unique valley vista, provide diversified user opportunities - varied recreational programming, air usage opportunities. Recreation and Arts - deep restriction on structures (weakness).

Staff will come back to the Board with the finalized analysis with Board comments. Board evaluations and input will be put into the nine Neighborhood SWOT which will be used in the 2006 PRO Plan modification. The Board will receive a notebook with entire SWOT analysis and lists of items to prioritize the department's CIP to date.

B. Grass Lawn Park - Phase IV

Hopkins reported that two phases of the Grass Lawn Park Renovation Master Plan have been completed. Future phases are evolving and plans modified as they mature. Phase III is in the process and Phase IV is scheduled for two years.

Phase IV plans include a mix of artificial turf and grass fields to accommodate safety per Board's request. Position/layout of fields may eliminate one field due to safety issues, currently a temporary fence has been installed to make it safe and create a buffer. Trying to create one quality play surface, eliminates the safety issue, also provides for field turf and natural grass areas and gives a safety buffer. Phase IV is not currently funded and will not be developed for the next few years.

Staff will revisit this project in the future and presented to the Board.

B. Land Acquisition Prioritization and Strategies

Hopkins reviewed the map (handout).

- School District properties
- Perrigo Heights
- Redmond 74

Hopkins requested the Board's permission to put these projects in the "draft" PIP before adoption, so they show in the out years as unfunded. Color code will be: acquisition, acquisition on current CIP, acquisition within 1-3 years, acquisition within 4-6 years. Acquisition will be put on development map.

Land acquisition strategies - Prioritization criteria, i.e., mandatory due to, Comp Plan, PRO Plan as far as local parks and trail connections, riparian habitat - opportunity based acquisitions.

VI. New Business

A. Northwest Cricket League Presentation - handouts

Bhargava Vadapalli, President, of the NW Cricket League, introduced Mr. Phani Chitneni, Vice President of the League and then gave the Board an overview and some background on the League; statistics, problems and issues.

- 50% of participants live in Redmond area
- Global sport

- World Cup watch by over 1 billion people - 100+ countries participating
- USACA - body that promotes Cricket in USA
- Started in 1995
- 17 teams - membership count to date 400
- Important part of culture - would like to pass on to children
- NCWL is willing to conduct free Cricket camps to Redmond school students
- Would like to share in field maintenance
- Volunteer help when needed by Parks or City of Redmond
- Help promote cultural/entertainment activities
- Play 30 to 40 days a year- two types of wickets can be used to allow for other passive activities uses during non-cricket playing times - games are approximately seven hours playing time
- Men's and Women's teams - hard to accommodate both, not enough playing fields
- Two year interim use agreement is coming to an end, would like an extension
- Request assistance from Park Board - willing to do whatever it takes to continue play at Juel
- Staff will be working with the Cricket League in regards to the maintenance concerns and issues - issues to be addressed as far as a volunteer labor - liability, labor, union.
- Two teams will be playing with additional games scheduled for the field
- Request and consideration to staff and Board on the expansion of more teams playing/sharing field
- Staff will be coming back to the Board with recommendations (modify, expand, add conditions...) on the extension of the two year contract with the Cricket League - Two year lease expired at the end of season, this summer
- Kelsey suggested that staff negotiate another lease with the Cricket League and allow another League to use the facility - encourage to move ahead
- Kelsey suggested that the League look at the field turf at Perrigo Park for possible play
- Hopkins and staff have been discussing the development of a wicket that would give truer bounce to game
- Cricket League requested staff to consider the possibility of laying a fixed or semi-permanent wicket at Juel Park - staff will evaluate
- Snodgrass summarized the request of the Board for staff to pursue and work with the Club (and possibly the League) to expand playing opportunities
- Thanks to Tim Cox, staff and Board for their guidance and use of Juel Park

B. Bear Creek Parkway Extension

Cox briefed the Board on the consultant's directions, as mandated for Council Study Session, on October 11, 2005:

- Improve pedestrian environmental reclaim downtown
- Provide alternative traffic routes
- Allow conversion of a two-way street couplets
- Contribute to economic revitalization
- Accommodate future growth
- Additional connection for east/west traffic

The City has hired a consultant, conceptual plans have been drawn up, draft plans will be presented to the Board for comment, in accordance with analysis that has occurred, starting with the downtown master plan, Bear Creek EIS, moving to the Bear Creek Parkway Plan/Vision. Balanced solution is to identify project goals, proposed Bear Creek Parkway as more than street project - vision of Bear Creek Parkway Extension - providing a range of opportunities and balanced solution for a better working downtown.

Kelsey noted that they have not shown what will be done on several entrances from Town Center under parkway, how traffic will be controlled at north end of parkway. Cox responded that the conceptual plan is used to solicit comments.

KPG will make a presentation to the Board on November 3, 2005 for Board input. Board members may attend the October 11 study session.

C. Signage Code Revision

Snodgrass reported that Jim Roberts, Planning Dept. and Debra Farris, Planning Dept. Code Enforcement, gave a presentation to the Planning Commission on the signage code revision due to the ruling appeal.

Querry, Planning Commissioner, asked what affect the changes would make to banners. The response was that they would be prohibited for long periods - must be put up and taken down each day, this includes garage sale signs. Separation on ruling for political signs and stricter rules on realtor signs. Another issue is signs within buildings or within boundaries non-visible in right-of-ways. This consideration for ruling also includes reader boards.

Snodgrass asked for staff information and updates at a future Board meeting.

D. Downtown SWOT Introduction

Next meeting Gary Lee, Development Planner, will give an overview of planning projects and trends occurring in the downtown area (fees in lieu of open space, fees in lieu of usable open space).

Snodgrass - during process will there be an opportunity for the Board to make more solid views, preferences and comments, as to what is placed in and around Anderson Park?

Hopkins - want to see the planning efforts to make recessed corners, open plazas used to their intended purpose.

D. Park Board Retreat

Saturday, October 29, 2005

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Adair House - Anderson Park

Project Discussion and Park Projects Tour

VII. Reports – Projects

A. None

VIII. Coming Attractions

A. None

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Kelsey

Second by: Ladd

Approved: 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

By: _____ Date _____
Lori Snodgrass, Chair

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

Next Regular Meeting

December 1, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Location: Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center